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Bureau of Consular Affairs

Your Trip Abroad

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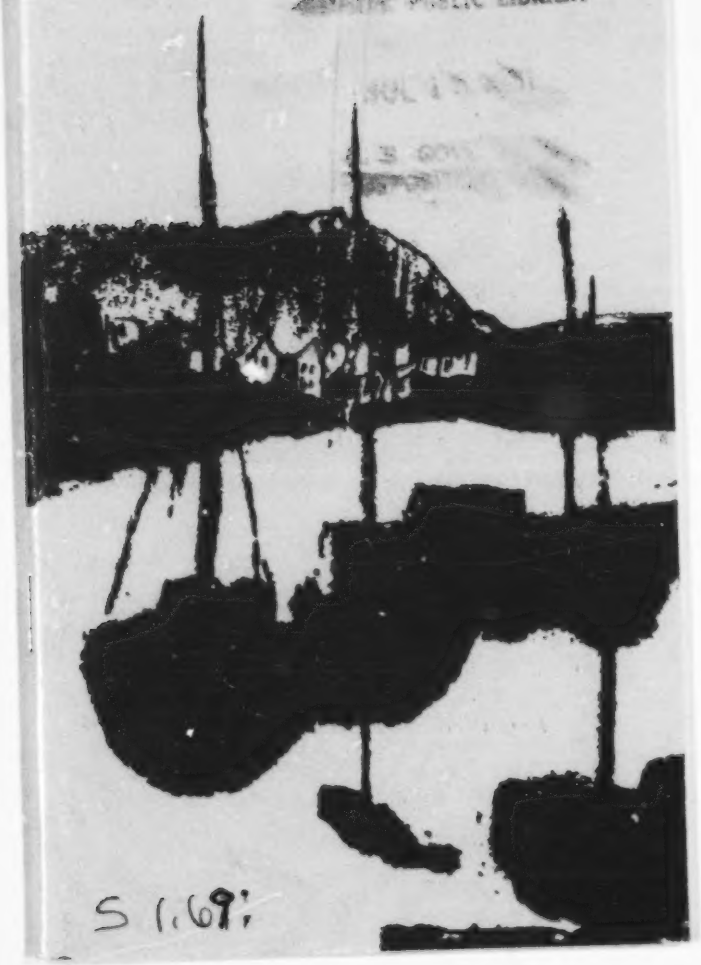

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Contents

3 Before You Go

3 Passports and Other Documents
11 Vaccinations
13 Unusual Travel Requirements
13 Dual Nationality
14 Organized Programs
14 Customs
14 Driver's License
14 Insurance
15 Itinerary
15 Lodging
15 Mail
15 Marriages
16 Medical
16 Money

19 While You Are Overseas

19 Itinerary
19 Passport
20 Money
20 Purchases and Mail
20 Customs
20 Registering With the U.S. Embassy or Consulate
21 Help From American Consuls
22 Legal Requirements
23 Drug Arrests
23 Legal Aid
24 If Destitute
25 If Ill or Injured
25 Return Transportation

27 When You Return

27 Immigration and Customs

28 Additional Sources of Information

28 Customs
28 Agricultural Products
28 Documents
29 Older Travelers
29 Foreign Country Information

31 Passport Agencies

Your Trip Abroad

Each year millions of Americans travel abroad for pleasure, business, or study. For most, the trip is an exciting venture. But for those who run into problems, it may be at best disagreeable, at worst disastrous.

This brochure provides basic information to help you prepare for as pleasant and trouble-free a trip as possible. Because you won't find every answer here, we have tried to include sources for further information. The U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., and its more than 250 U.S. Embassies and consulates overseas, as well as other appropriate U.S. Government departments and agencies, are ready to assist you whenever possible.

Remember—this is your trip. Make it a good one.

Before You Go

Most of your preparations will depend upon the destination, length, and purpose of your trip. Before leaving, it would be wise to make advance lodging and travel reservations and to determine which of your insurance policies covers you while abroad. In addition, you will need certain official documents and perhaps vaccinations and travel information for certain areas.

Passports and Other Documents

The required documents vary from country to country, but you will probably require one or more of the following: passport or other proof of citizenship, visa, tourist card. A few countries also require evidence that you have enough money for your trip and/or your ongoing transportation tickets.

To find out what you will need, consult:

- A travel agent.
- The international airlines offices serving the countries you plan to visit.
- The Department of State Office of Passport Services' publication M-264, *Visa Requirements of Foreign Governments.*
- The embassies or nearest consulates of the countries you plan to visit. These official institutions representing foreign governments in the United States are located in major U.S. cities and have the most up-to-date information. They are, therefore, your best source. (The *Congressional Directory,* available at most public libraries, lists their addresses and phone numbers.)

Passport

Who Needs a Passport

With a few exceptions, all U.S. citizens need passports to depart from or enter the United States and to enter most foreign countries. Exceptions generally relate to travel between the United States and Mexico, Canada, some countries in South and Central America, and the Caribbean. Check with the embassy or consulate of the country you wish to visit for its specific requirements for admission.

When To Apply

Apply a few months in advance of your planned departure. If you will need visas, allow additional time.

How To Apply

For your first passport, you must present in person a completed Form DSP–11, "Passport Application," at one of the Passport Agencies listed at the back of this brochure or at one of the several thousand Federal or State courts or U.S. post offices that accept passport applications.

If your have had a previous passport and wish to obtain another, you may be eligible to apply by mail. Check the qualifications listed below under "When To Apply by Mail". If you do not qualify, you must apply in person at one of the authorized offices previously mentioned.

What You Need To Obtain a Passport

1. Properly completed Passport Application.
2. Proof of U.S. citizenship, which includes:

a. A PREVIOUSLY ISSUED PASSPORT or one in which you were included. If you are applying for your first passport or cannot submit a previous passport, you must submit other evidence of citizenship as described below.

b. If you were born in the United States:

• A BIRTH CERTIFICATE which must show that the birth record was filed shortly after birth and *which must be certified* with the registrar's signature and raised, impressed, embossed, or multicolored seal. ("Notifications of Birth Registration" or "Birth Announcements" are not normally acceptable for passport purposes.) A delayed birth certificate (filed more than 1 year after the date of birth) is acceptable provided that it shows it was supported by secondary evidence of birth as described below.

• SECONDARY EVIDENCE OF BIRTH if primary evidence is not obtainable. Submit a notice from the State registrar stating that no birth record exists, accompanied by the best secondary evidence possible. Such evidence may include a baptismal certificate, a hospital birth record, affidavits of persons having personal knowledge of the facts of your birth, or other documentary evidence such as early census, school, or family Bible records, newspaper files, and insurance papers. A personal knowledge affidavit should be further supported by at least one public record reflecting birth in the United States.

c. If you were born abroad:

• A CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION.

• A CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service if *citizenship was acquired through naturalization of a parent or parents.*

• A REPORT OF BIRTH ABROAD OF A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (Form FS–240), a CERTIFICATION OF BIRTH (Form FS–545 or DS–1350), or a CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP *if citizenship was acquired by birth abroad to a U.S. citizen parent or parents.*

3. Two photographs.

Present *two identical* photographs of yourself which are sufficiently recent (normally taken within the past 6 months) to be a good likeness. They must be signed on the reverse, with the signature agreeing with that on the application.

The photographs must be 2x2 inches in size, and the image size measured from the bottom of the chin to the top of the head (including hair) must be not less than 1 inch nor more than 1⅜ inches. Passport photographs are acceptable in either black and white or color.

Photographs should be clear, front view, fullface, and printed on thin paper with a plain, light background. Photographs should be portrait-type prints taken in normal street attire without a hat and should include no more than the head and shoulders or upper torso. Dark glasses are not acceptable unless for medical reasons. Only applicants who are in the active service of the Armed Forces and who are proceeding abroad in the discharge of their duties may submit photographs in the uniform of the Armed Forces of the United States. The Office of Passport Services welcomes photographs in which the applicant is relaxed and smiling—so smile!

Most vending machine prints are not able to withstand a mounting temperature of up to 225°F (107°C) for 30 seconds and/or will not adhere properly to the passport page and therefore are not acceptable for use in passports. Newspaper and magazine prints are not acceptable.

4. Fees.

As of February 1981, the fee for a passport is $10. In addition, a $5 fee shall be paid to the official executing the application. For up-to-date fee information, please check with the office at which you plan to apply for your passport.

The execution fee is not collected by Federal officials when the application is for a no-fee type passport (for those assigned abroad on U.S. Government business). No execution fee is required when applying for a passport by mail.

The following forms of payment are acceptable:

- Bank draft or cashier's check.
- Check: certified, personal, traveler's.
- Money order: U.S. Postal, international, currency exchange, bank.
- Cash (cash should not be sent through the mail).

5. Proof of identity.

You must establish your identity to the satisfaction of the person executing your application. The following items generally are acceptable documents of identity if they contain your signature *and* if they readily identify you by physical description or by photograph:

- Previous U.S. passport.
- A Certificate of Naturalization or of Citizenship.
- Driver's license.
- A government (Federal, State, municipal) identification card or pass.

The following documents are *not* acceptable:

- Social Security card.
- Learner's or temporary driver's license.
- Credit card of any type.
- Any temporary or expired identity card or document.

• Any document which has been altered or changed in any manner.

If you are unable to establish your identity by presentation of one of the above acceptable documents, you must be accompanied by a person who has known you for at least 2 years and who is a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident alien of the United States. That person must sign an affidavit in the presence of the same person who executes the passport application. The witness will be required to establish his or her own identity.

Inclusion of Family Members in Your Passport Prohibited

Effective January 1981, it is no longer possible to include family members of any age in a U.S. passport. All persons are required to obtain individual passports in their own names. Passports issued prior to January 1981, in which family members are included, will remain valid for travel until such passports expire. However, those passports will not be amended to include the name of a family member.

Required Appearance in Person

An applicant must appear in person before the clerk or agent executing the application if she/he is 13 years of age or older. (A parent or guardian may execute an application for a child under the age of 13.)

When To Apply by Mail

You may apply by mail if:

• You have been the bearer of a passport issued within 8 years prior to the date of a new application, and

• You are able to submit your most recent U.S. passport with your new application, and

• Your previous passport was not issued before your 18th birthday.

How To Apply by Mail

If you are eligible to apply by mail, obtain Office of Passport Service's Form DSP-82, "Application for Passport by Mail," from one of the offices accepting applications and complete the information requested.

- Sign and date the application.
- Attach your previous passport; two identical photographs—which are sufficiently recent (normally taken within the past 6 months) to be a good likeness—signed in the center on the reverse; and the $10 passport fee.
- Mail the completed application and attachments to the nearest Passport Agency for processing. An incomplete or improperly prepared application will delay issuance of your passport.

Effective June 1981, if you are assigned abroad on U.S. Government business and wish to apply by mail for a no-fee type passport (no-fee regular, official, or diplomatic), you must submit the appropriate authorization, your completed mail-in application form, previous passport, and two photos to the Washington Passport Agency for processing. No fee is required.

When You Receive Your Passport

Be sure to sign it and fill in the notification data at the front.

Length of Validity of Your Passport

Your passport is valid for 5 years from the issue date unless specifically limited to a shorter period by the Secretary of State.

Additional Visa Pages

If you obtain a passport and thereafter require additional visa pages before your passport expires, you can obtain them by submitting your passport to a Passport Agency listed at the back of this brochure. Be sure to order a

48-page passport at the time of application if you are planning to travel abroad extensively.

Validity of an Altered or Mutilated Passport for Travel

If you mutilate or alter your U.S. passport in any way (other than changing the address and notification data appearing on the inside cover of the passport), you may render it invalid, cause yourself much inconvenience, and expose yourself to possible prosecution under the law (Title 18, U.S. Code—Section 1543).

Mutilated or altered passports should be turned in to passport agents, clerks of court, authorized postal employees, or U.S. consular offices abroad.

Loss or Theft of U.S. Passport

If your passport is lost or stolen in the United States, report the loss or theft immediately to Passport Services, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520, or to the nearest Passport Agency. The loss or theft should also be reported to local police authorities.

Other Information

Additional information may be obtained from any of the Passport Agencies listed on page 30 and 31.

Visa

This endorsement or stamp placed in your passport by a foreign government permits you to visit that country for a specified purpose and a limited time—for example, a 3-month tourist visa. You should obtain necessary visas before you leave the United States. Apply directly to the embassies or nearest consulates of the countries you plan to visit or consult with a travel agent. The Office of Passport Services of the Department of State cannot help you obtain visas.

Because the visa is usually stamped directly onto one of the blank pages in your passport, you will need to fill out a form and give your passport to an official of each foreign embassy or consulate. You may need one or more photographs. There is a fee for some visas. The process may take several weeks for each visa, so start early. Double-check visa requirements before you leave.

Tourist Card

Some countries (Mexico, for example) allow you to enter and remain without a passport or visa. If a country you plan to visit requires a tourist card, you can obtain one from that country's embassy or consulate, from an airline serving the country, or at the port of entry. There is a fee for some tourist cards. Check entry requirements before you leave the United States.

Proof of Citizenship

If the country you plan to visit requires only proof of U.S. citizenship, you may need a birth certificate, a naturalization certificate, or other document. Check with the appropriate embassy or consulate for requirements.

Vaccinations

Under the International Health Regulations adopted by the World Health Organization, a country, under certain conditions, may require International Certificates of Vaccination against cholera, smallpox, and yellow fever from international travelers. No vaccinations are required to return to the United States from any country. Some other countries, however, may require certain immunizations; and certain other preventive measures are advisable for some travelers. The booklet *Health Information for International Travel*, available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S.

Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, provides pertinent information. Specific information may be obtained from:

- Your local or State health department.
- Your physician.
- A private or public agency that advises international travelers.
- Or the embassy or consulate of each country you plan to visit.

You probably will not need any vaccinations. The Public Health Service recommends that you have only those shots which are required: Avoid the risks involved in being vaccinated against a disease to which you will not be exposed. Few countries will refuse to admit you if you arrive without the necessary vaccination; officials will either vaccinate you, give you a medical followup card, or—rarely—put you in isolation for the incubation period of the disease for which you were not vaccinated.

If you do need vaccinations, they must be recorded on approved forms such as those included in the booklet PHS–731, *International Certificates of Vaccination.* This booklet is available from Government Printing Office bookstores. Keep it with your passport. Doublecheck requirements before you leave.

Unusual Travel Requirements

If you will be traveling in Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, or north Africa, you should be aware of their travel requirements. When you list those places on your passport application, a Passport Agency will send you free factsheets on these requirements. You may also obtain copies from the Office of Passport Services. See the listing of publications under "Foreign Country Information" at the back of this brochure.

Dual Nationality

A foreign country may claim you as a citizen of that country if:

- You were born there.
- Your parent is a citizen of that country.
- You are married to a citizen of that country.
- Or you are a naturalized U.S. citizen but are still considered a citizen under that country's laws.

If you are in any of the above categories, before you go, check your status (including military obligations) with the embassy or consulate of the country that might claim you as a citizen. (Countries in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, in particular, may regard you as one of their own citizens.)

Organized Programs

Most private programs for vacation, study, or work abroad are reputable and financially sound. Some, however, may exact exorbitant fees, use deliberately false "educational" claims, and provide working conditions far different from those advertised. Even programs of legitimate organizations can be poorly run. Be cautious. Before committing yourself, find out about the organization and what it offers.

Customs

Become familiar with U.S. Customs regulations. If you plan to take foreign-made personal articles (watches, cameras, etc.) with you, consider getting a certificate of registration from the Customs office nearest you. This certificate will expedite their free entry when you return.

Driver's License

Some countries do not recognize a U.S. driver's license. Check with the embassy or consulate of the countries in which you plan to drive. Most countries do, however, accept an international driver's license. You can obtain one at a local office of an established automobile club. You will need two passport-size (2×2 inches) photographs and your valid U.S. license. There is a fee.

Insurance

Make sure your regular medical and accident insurance policies cover you while abroad. Check your auto insurance if you plan to drive. In the event that your present policies do not provide protection for you and your family while outside the United States, you may wish to consider acquiring additional coverage or consulting your State insurance association for

information on available protection. You may also want to consider trip insurance for yourself and your belongings.

Itinerary

Leave a detailed itinerary (including names, addresses, and phone numbers of persons and places to be visited) with relatives or friends so you can be reached in an emergency, receive mail, and get money in a hurry. Include your passport number with the itinerary.

Lodging

Reserve your lodging as far in advance as possible. An alternative to hotels and *pensions* is the youth hostel system, which offers travelers of all ages clean, inexpensive, overnight accommodations at 4,500 locations in 50 countries. International regulations require that men and women sleep in separate facilities; there are no accommodations for couples. Curfews are often imposed. For information, write American Youth Hostels, Delaplane, VA 22025.

Mail

Make arrangements to pick up mail or messages. Some banks and credit card companies handle mail for their customers. General Delivery (*Poste Restante*) services at post offices in most countries will hold mail for you. U.S. Embassies and consulates do not handle private mail.

Marriages

Marriages abroad must be performed in accordance with the local laws of the foreign country. In many countries, there is a lengthy residence requirement before a marriage may

take place. There are also certain documentary requirements. Check with the foreign embassy or consulate in the United States about the marriage requirements before you leave.

Marriages which are legally performed and valid abroad are usually legally valid in the United States. American diplomatic and consular officials do not have the authority to perform marriages.

Medical

If you have to take medicines containing habit-forming or narcotic drugs with you, you should carry a doctor's certificate attesting to that fact. Leave all medicines in their original labeled containers. These precautions will make Customs processing easier. You should be aware, however, that a doctor's certificate may not suffice as authorization to transport drugs to all foreign countries. To insure that you do not violate the laws of the country you intend to visit, consult the embassy or consulate of that country for precise information before leaving the United States.

If the need arises while you are abroad, you may contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate for a list of local doctors, dentists, medical specialists, and other medical information. Consular officers, however, cannot supply you with medication.

Money

Don't carry large amounts of cash. Traveler's checks in U.S. dollars or foreign currency are preferable. Some credit cards can be used worldwide in certain establishments. If you are staying in one place for a while, consider opening an account for check cashing or other financial transactions at a U.S. bank that has an overseas affiliate. Check it out before you go. U.S. Embassies and consulates cannot cash checks for you.

Make advance arrangements with a relative or friend in case an emergency leaves you short of cash. Major banks and some travel agencies can help you arrange a transfer of funds from your hometown to a foreign bank in most foreign cities.

Buy small amounts of foreign currency to use for buses, taxis, phone calls, tips, and other incidentals when you arrive. You can purchase currency from banks, foreign exchange firms, or at foreign exchange windows or vending machines at international airports.

Some countries regulate the amount of local currency you can bring into or take out of the country; others require that you exchange a minimum amount of currency. Check with a bank, foreign exchange firm, an embassy or consulate of the countries you plan to visit, or a travel agent before you leave.

While You Are Overseas

Itinerary

If you change your travel plans, notify relatives or friends back home. If you find yourself in an area of civil unrest or natural disaster, let them know you are okay as soon as you can.

Passport

Guard it carefully. Don't use it as collateral for a loan and don't lend it to anyone. It is your best form of identification when you pick up mail, check into hotels, or cash checks. Keep the number in a separate but safe place in case your passport is lost or stolen. Report the loss or theft of your passport immediately to the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate. It should be reported to local police authorities also.

Reports show that criminals are using lost and stolen U.S. passports abroad. This often causes embarrassment to citizens whose names become associated with illegal activities. To protect the integrity of the U.S. passport and the security of the person bearing it, the Office of Passport Services has found it necessary to take special precautions in processing lost passport cases. These precautions, which include verification of the circumstances of loss as well as a review in the Department, may involve some delay before a new passport is issued.

It has been found that the main cause for losing a passport or having it stolen is carelessness. Travelers should be acutely

aware of problems which arise abroad when a U.S. passport is lost and, therefore, should carry it in a secure manner. Coat pockets and handbags are particularly susceptible to theft.

Money

Banks and travel agencies usually offer better rates than hotels and other commercial establishments. Rates are often posted in windows. Above all, avoid private currency transactions because you risk being swindled or stuck with counterfeit currency. Learn and obey all local currency laws.

Purchases and Mail

Any small items purchased abroad should be mailed personally to your home address or carried in your luggage. This will prevent misaddressed packages, nonreceipt of merchandise, or receipt of wrong merchandise. If you do mail a purchase, be sure to ask about insurance.

Customs

Keep all receipts for items that you buy overseas. They will be helpful in making your U.S. Customs declaration when you return.

Registering With the U.S. Embassy or Consulate

You should register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate:

- If you plan to stay in one country for some time. Registration will make it easier to replace a lost or stolen passport or to assist or evacuate you in an emergency.
- If you are going to Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugo-

slavia, Poland, Romania, the German Democractic Republic (East Germany), and the U.S.S.R.). If you are with an escorted tour, make sure registration is taken care of for you. If it is not, or if you are traveling on your own, leave a copy of your itinerary at the U.S. Embassy or nearest consulate soon after arrival. Registration makes it easier for consular employees to help you if you encounter difficulties. Unprovoked arrest or detainment is rare, but not unknown.

- If you are going to a country where there are no U.S. officials (Albania or South Yemen, for example), register in an adjacent country, leave an itinerary, and ask about conditions in the country you plan to visit.
- If you must travel to a country or area that is experiencing civil unrest or has a particularly unstable political climate.

Help From American Consuls

U.S. consular officers are located at U.S. Embassies and consulates in most countries overseas. They are there to advise and help you, especially if you are in serious trouble of any kind. Some of the ways they can aid you will be mentioned below. The number of consular officers abroad is very small, however, and the number of American tourists is constantly growing.

Consuls cannot do the work of travel agencies, lawyers, information bureaus, banks, or the police. Please do not expect them to find work or get residence or driving permits, to act as travel agents or interpreters, to search for missing luggage, or to settle disputes with hotel managers. Although our consuls wish to be responsive to the needs of U.S. nationals traveling or residing abroad, they must first devote their time and energies to those Americans who are in serious legal, medical, or financial difficulties.

Legal Requirements

When you are in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws. Use good common sense. Avoid areas of unrest and disturbance. Your personal injury or detention could cause considerable inconvenience or delay.

When you enter some countries and when you register at hotels, you may be asked to fill out a police information card listing your name, passport number, destination, local address, and reason for traveling. In some nations, you will be asked to leave your passport at the hotel reception desk overnight in order that it may be checked by local police officials. These are normal procedures required by local laws.

Deal only with authorized outlets when you exchange money or buy and sell airline tickets and traveler's checks. Don't deliver packages for anyone unless you are certain they do not contain drugs or other contraband.

Some countries, such as those in Eastern Europe, are particularly sensitive about photographs. In such countries, travelers should refrain from photographing police and military installations and personnel; industrial structures, including harbor, rail, and airport facilities; border areas; and, in the exceptional event that these should occur during the visitor's stay in the country, scenes of civil disorder or other public disturbances. Taking such photographs may result in detention, confiscation of the camera and films, and imposition of fines. For more information about possible restrictions of this type, U.S. citizens should check with the U.S. Embassy or consulate in the country concerned or ask a local police officer or other government official if taking a particular picture is allowed.

Become familiar with local regulations before you sell personal effects such as clothing, cameras, and jewelry. Adhere to local laws strictly. The penalties you risk are severe.

Drug Arrests

As of January 1981 some 1,700 Americans were in foreign jails, many on drug charges. Despite repeated warnings, drug arrests and convictions are still on the increase. If you are caught with either soft or hard drugs overseas, you are subject to local—not U.S.—laws. Penalties for possession or trafficking are often the same. If you are arrested, you will find that:

- Few countries provide a jury trial.
- Most countries do not accept bail.
- Pretrial detention, often in solitary confinement, may last months.
- Prisons may lack even minimal comforts—bed, toilet, washbasin.
- Diets are often inadequate and require supplements from relatives and friends.
- Officials may not speak English.
- Physical abuse, confiscation of personal property, degrading or inhumane treatment, and extortion are not unknown.

If you are convicted, you face a sentence of:

- 2–10 years in most countries.
- A minimum of 6 years hard labor and a stiff fine in some countries.
- Death in some countries such as Turkey, Algeria, Iran, and Thailand—to name a few.

Legal Aid

If you do have difficulties with the local authorities, remember that you're subject to local laws. Unfortunately, what American officials can do is limited—by foreign laws, by U.S. laws, and by geography. The U.S. Government has no funds for your legal fees or other related expenses.

You should consult a consular officer if you find yourself in a dispute which could lead to legal or police action. Although U.S. consular

officers cannot serve as attorneys or give legal advice, they can provide lists of local attorneys and help you find adequate legal representation. It should be noted that the consular attorneys' lists, although carefully prepared, are compiled from local bar association lists and responses to questionnaires. The individuals and firms named on the lists are not investigated. Neither the Department of State nor U.S. Embassies or consulates can assume any responsibility for the caliber, competence, or professional integrity of the attorneys.

Consular officers will also do whatever they can to protect your legitimate interests and insure that you are not discriminated against under local law. They cannot get you out of jail.

If you are arrested, ask permission to notify the consular officer at the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate. If you're turned down, keep asking—politely, but persistently.

American officials will visit you, advise you of your rights according to local laws, and contact your family and friends if you ask them. If your prison facilities are inadequate—as is often the case—the consul can transfer money, food, and clothing from your family and friends to the prison authorities. They will try to get relief if you are held under inhumane or unhealthful conditions or treated less favorably than others in the same situation.

If Destitute

If you become destitute abroad, the American consul will help you get in touch with your family, friends, bank, or employer and tell you how to arrange for them to send funds to you. If your money is lost or stolen, the consul can advise you on informing the local police and, if the money was in traveler's checks, notifying the issuing authority.

If Ill or Injured

If you are injured or become seriously ill abroad, the consul will help you find medical assistance and inform your family or friends. In an emergency, the consul will check the inside front cover of your passport where you should have written the name and address of any relative, friend, or legal representative whom you wish to have notified.

Return Transportation

Reconfirm your return reservation at least 72 hours before departure. If possible, obtain a written reconfirmation. If you do it by phone, however, record the time, day, and name of the agent who took the call. If your name does not appear on the reservations list, you have no recourse and may find yourself stranded.

When You Return

Immigration and Customs

Have your passport ready when you go through Immigration and Customs. It is a good idea to have your baggage packed to make inspection easy. Where possible, pack separately the articles you have acquired abroad. Have your receipts handy in case you need to support your Customs declaration. If you took other documents with you, such as an "International Certificate of Vaccination," a medical certificate, or a Customs certificate of registration for foreign-made personal articles, you should have them ready also. If you are returning to the United States by car from Mexico or Canada, have your certificate of vehicle registration handy.

Additional Sources of Information

Customs

Know Before You Go, Customs Hints for Returning U.S. Residents contains information about key U.S. Customs regulations and procedures. Single copies are available free from any local Customs office or write P.O. Box 7118, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Agricultural Products

Travelers' Tips on Bringing Food, Plant, and Animal Products Into the United States lists entry requirements for these items from most parts of the world. Fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, potted plants, pet birds, and other items are prohibited or restricted. The publication, in English or Spanish, is free from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Documents

Visa Requirements of Foreign Governments lists the entry requirements for U.S. citizens traveling as tourists and where and how to apply for visas and tourist cards. Single copies of the publication are free from the Office of Passport Services, Department of State,

Washington, D.C. 20524, and from any passport application facility. NOTE: This publication is updated annually but may not reflect current requirements.

Older Travelers

Travel Tips for Senior Citizens provides suggestions on how to better prepare for an enjoyable trip overseas. Free single copies may be obtained by sending a postcard to the Public Information Service, Room 4827A, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

Foreign Country Information

Background Notes are brief, factual pamphlets—160 in all—describing the countries of the world and selected international organizations. They contain the most current information on each country's people, culture, geography, history, government, economy, and political conditions. *Background Notes* also include a reading list, travel notes, and maps. Single copies are $1.00. Write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Country Information Notices provide advice on travel to specific areas of the world. Depending on the particular region being discussed, a *Notice* might cover such topics as currency and customs regulations, entry requirements, dual nationality, import and export controls, vaccination requirements, restrictions on use of photography, and warnings on use of drugs. Single copies of the following publications are free from the Office of Passport Services, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20524:

- *Travel to the Soviet Union.*
- *Travel to European Communist Countries, Excluding the Soviet Union.*

- *Travel by Private American Citizens to East Berlin and the German Democratic Republic (GDR).*
- *Travel to Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland.*
- *Travel to Syria.*
- *Travel to South Yemen (Aden).*
- *Travel to Israel, Jerusalem, and Nearby Arab Countries.*
- *Travel to Italy.*
- *Travel to Greece.*
- *Travel to Cambodia (Democratic Kampuchea), North Korea, or Vietnam.*
- *Travel to Mexico.*

Passport Agencies

Boston, Massachusetts 02203
Room E123, John F. Kennedy Bldg.
Government Center
617-223-2946

Chicago, Illinois 60604
Suite 380, Kluczynski Federal Bldg.
230 South Dearborn Street
312-353-7155

Detroit, Michigan 48226
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